

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151790
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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:EM
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/CE:RBARKLEY
L/ECP:EMAURER (INFO)

-----066432 151155Z /45

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ACLM, SCUL, GE, US

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON FEININGER PAINTINGS

REF: (A) BERLIN 3773; (B) STATE 140592

1. ON BASIS OF EMBASSY'S REPORTING, DEPARTMENT FEELS
THAT THERE MAY WELL BE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITHIN
GDR GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS EVEN WITHIN MFA ON HOW TO
HANDLE THE MATTER OF THE FEININGER PAINTINGS. EMBASSY
THEREFORE SHOULD IGNORE ELM'S RELATIVELY NEGATIVE STATE-
MENTS ON MATTER (REF A) AND SEEK TO FOLLOW UP ON HOFFMANN'S
MORE FORTHCOMING PROPOSAL (REF B).

2. DURING GENERAL FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH FISCHER, AMBASS-
ADOR SHOULD REFER TO HOFFMANN'S WILLINGNESS TO TURN OVER
PAINTINGS WITHOUT STRINGS AND TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT MATTER
BE DISCUSSED BY FISCHER AND SECRETARY. NOTING THAT HE AND
SECRETARY DID NOT GET AROUND TO THE PAINTINGS, AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 151790

SHOULD SEEK FISCHER'S THOUGHTS ON HOW TO CARRY OUT TURN-
OVER. AMBASSADOR MAY AGREE TO LOOSE UNDERTAKING THAT USG
WILL PROMPTLY RETURN TO GDR ON AN AD HOC BASIS CULTURAL
OBJECTS DECLARED BY OUR COURTS TO BE THE PROPERTY OF THE
GDR BUT SHOULD AVOID AGREEING TO ANY BROADER OR MORE
GENERAL EXCHANGE.

3. GIST OF HOFFMANN'S PROPOSAL AND REPORT OF OUR INTENTION
TO FOLLOW UP HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN TO RALPH COLIN. WE HAVE
ASKED HIM TO AVOID PUBLICITY PENDING RESULTS OF FOLLOW-UP.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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